

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1        1.     A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming  
2 comprising:  
3            retrieving digital media content from a library;  
4            storing in the media content for subsequent playback; and  
5            storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of  
6 media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a  
7 user's predetermined specifications.

1        2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically  
3 changing particular audio content.

1        3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1        4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content further comprises the steps of:  
3            determining a selected segment length;  
4            determining a selected particular media content; and  
5            storing a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device  
6 having a length of the selected segment length.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of episodes.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content further comprises the steps of:  
3           determining an media program having a series of episodes;  
4           retrieving a particular episode in the series of episodes; and  
5           retrieving an episode subsequent to the particular episode when the particular  
6 episode has been consumed.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment from a series of audio  
3 content having multiple segments.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a subset of the media  
2 content further comprises the steps of:  
3           selecting a segment of the media content;  
4           storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;  
5           determining an amount of the portion of the media content consumed, if any; and  
6           storing a subsequent portion of the media content corresponding to the amount of  
7 the portion of media content consumed in the playback device.

1           9. An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming  
2 comprising:

3           means for retrieving digital content from a library;  
4           means for storing in the content for subsequent playback; and  
5           means for storing a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the  
6           subset of media content is automatically selected to update consumed media content  
7           according to a user's predetermined specifications.

1           10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the  
2           content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment of a  
3           dynamically changing particular content.

1           11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

1           12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the step of storing a subset of the  
2           content further comprises:  
3           means for determining a selected segment length;  
4           means for determining a selected particular content; and  
5           means for storing a segment of the selected particular content in the playback  
6           device having a length of the selected segment length.

1           13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the  
2           content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent episode in a series of

3 episodes.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the  
2 content further comprises:

3 means for determining an program having a series of episodes;  
4 means for retrieving a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and  
5 means for storing the most recent episode in a playback device.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the  
2 content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment in a static  
3 content.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for storing a subset of the  
2 content further comprises:  
3 means for selecting a static content;  
4 means for storing a portion of the static content in a playback device;  
5 means for determining an amount of the portion of the static content consumed, if  
6 any; and  
7 means for storing a subsequent portion of the static content corresponding to the  
8 amount of the portion of static content consumed in the playback device.

1 17. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of  
2 sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a

3 processor, cause the processor to:  
4 retrieve digital media content from a library;  
5 store the media content for subsequent playback; and  
6 store a subset of the media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of  
7 media content is automatically selected to provide media content according to a user's  
8 predetermined specifications.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to  
3 automatically store a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular media  
4 content.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:  
3 determine a selected segment length;  
4 determine a selected particular media content; and  
5 store a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device  
6 having a length of the selected segment length.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to  
3 automatically store a most recent episode in a series of episodes.

1           21. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:  
3           determine an media program having a series of episodes;  
4           retrieve a most recent episode in the series of episodes; and  
5           store the most recent episode in a playback device.

1           22. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to  
3 automatically store a most recent segment in a static media content.

1           23. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the sequence of  
2 instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the processor to:  
3           select a static media content;  
4           store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;  
5           determining an amount of the portion of the static media content consumed, if any; and  
6           store a subsequent portion of the static media content corresponding to the amount  
7           of the portion of static media content consumed in the playback device.

1           24. An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming  
2 comprising:  
3           a library access device that provides access to a library;  
4           a storage device coupled to the library access device that stores content retrieved  
5           from the library; and

6           a playback device having a memory and an interface coupled to the storage  
7    device;

8           wherein the playback device stores a selected content that is a subset of the  
9    content stored by the storage device, and further wherein the selected content is  
10   determined automatically based on predetermined user content selections.

1           25.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a personal  
2    computer.

1           26.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is an Internet  
2    terminal.

1           27.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the library access device is a dedicated  
2    audio library access device.

1           28.    The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

1           29.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is an optical disc.

1           30.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

1           31.    The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the playback device memory  
2    comprises flash memory.